

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, US, IS

SUBJECT: CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION STATEMENT OF AMBASSADOR
LEWIS

1. BELOW IS TEXT OF STATEMENT TO BE MADE BY AMBASSADOR ON
PRESENTING LETTER OF CREDENCE TO PRESIDENT KATZIR.

2. BEGIN TEXT. MR. PRESIDENT:

3. I HAVE THE HONOR TO PRESENT TO YOU A LETTER FROM
PRESIDENT CARTER ACCREDITING ME AS THE UNITED STATES AMBASS-
ADOR TO ISRAEL AS WELL AS A LETTER FROM HIM RECALLING MY
PREDECESSOR. I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO
REAFFIRM TO YOU THE WARM FRIENDSHIP OF PRESIDENT CARTER
AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF
ISRAEL. AS PRESIDENT CARTER RECENTLY SAID, "THERE IS A
KINSHIP BETWEEN OUR NATION AND ISRAEL THAT IS ALMOST UNIQUE.
OUR PRINCIPLE OF GOVERNMENT IS THE SAME--OF PRINCIPAL COM-
MITMENT TO INDIVIDUAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND TO DEMOCRACY IN ITS
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PUREST FORM, A MATTER OF PRIDE IN ONE'S PRESENT AND IN
ONE'S PAST AND CONFIDENCE ABOUT THE FUTURE, EVEN IN TIMES
OF TRIAL AND TRIBULATION; AND ASSURING OF A RELIGIOUS

HERITAGE THAT TO ME IS VERY SIGNIFICANT."

4. IT IS IN THIS SPIRIT THAT I WILL ASSUME MY DUTIES HERE.

I AM PRIVILEGED TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH A PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT DEDICATED TO THE PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY, HUMAN DIGNITY AND PEACE. ISRAEL AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE LONG ENJOYED A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BASED UPON THESE PRINCIPLES. IT IS MY SINCERE HOPE THAT I CAN MAKE A CONTRIBUTION HERE TO THE FORMATION OF EVEN CLOSER BONDS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

5. THE CLOSE TIES BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE UNITED STATES EXTEND ACROSS THE ENTIRE RANGE OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, DEFENSE, SCIENTIFIC, AND CULTURAL ISSUES. WHILE I SERVE IN ISRAEL I WILL WORK TO STRENGTHEN OUR ALREADY CLOSE COOPERATION IN THESE AREAS OF VITAL MUTUAL CONCERN.

6. IT IS THE FIRM BELIEF OF MY GOVERNMENT, AS WELL AS MY PERSONAL ONE, THAT THE CHIEF MUTUAL OBJECTIVE OF ISRAEL AND THE UNITED STATES IS THE ACTIVE SEARCH FOR A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST WHICH WILL END THE CONFLICT WHICH HAS PLAGUED THE AREA FOR THIRTY YEARS. YOU AND WE HAVE JOINED TOGETHER IN THIS COOPERATIVE EFFORT, BASED ON OUR SHARED RECOGNITION THAT THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE TO PEACE. YOU AND WE HAVE NEVER BEEN DEFLECTED BY THE DIFFICULTIES AND THE RISKS OF THE SEARCH. IN PRESENTING MY CREDENTIALS TODAY, I RENEW AGAIN ON THE PART OF MY GOVERNMENT AND MYSELF THE COMMITMENT TO CONTINUE THAT ARDUOUS BUT ESSENTIAL SEARCH TO WHICH OUR TWO COUNTRIES ARE DEDICATED.

7. AS PRESIDENT CARTER HAS MADE CLEAR, THE EFFORTS OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNITED STATES ARE DIRECTED TOWARD MEDIATION--HELPING TO DEFINE THAT COMMON GROUND FROM WHICH NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PARTIES MAY PROCEED. NO PEACE CAN BE LASTING UNLESS WORKED OUT BY THE PARTIES THEMSELVES, NOR CAN THE RESPONSIBILITY TO REACH SUCH A SETTLEMENT BE DELEGATED BY THOSE WHO MUST LIVE WITH THE PEACE WHICH THEY WILL CREATE.

8. WITH REGARD TO ISRAEL, PRESIDENT CARTER HAS STATED: "THE FIRST PREREQUISITE TO A LASTING PEACE IS THE RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL BY HER NEIGHBORS; ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST, ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST PERMANENTLY, ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST IN PEACE."

9. IT IS WITH A SENSE OF BOTH PRIDE IN THE CONFIDENCE MY GOVERNMENT HAS PLACED IN ME AND HUMILITY CONCERNING THE WEIGHTY RESPONSIBILITIES OF THIS MISSION THAT I BEGIN MY

WORK HERE. I LOOK FORWARD TO REPRESENTING THE UNITED STATES IN ISRAEL WITH THE ABSOLUTE CONVICTION THAT NO

MATTER HOW DIFFICULT THE PROBLEMS WHICH FACE OUR TWO GOV-
ERNMENTS, WE WILL FACE THEM TOGETHER IN A WAY THAT WILL
STRENGTHEN THE BONDS BETWEEN OUR PEOPLES, AND IN SO DOING,
LAY A FOUNDATION FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. END TEXT.
CHRISTOPHER

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